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opened the lands in the Northwest to settlement; while the construction of the Erie Canal and the introduction of steamboats on the lakes made the region accessible to the New England emigrants. They began pouring into it in the years 1830-37. By 1840 Ohio was fairly settled; the main current of migration thereafter turning to north Illinois and Indiana, and, still later, to Michigan and Wisconsin. The result of this expansion of New England up to 1860, as portrayed by the map indicating the area settled by New Englanders, shows an almost solid belt extending between the 41st and the 44th parallels of north latitude from the Atlantic coast to the Mississippi River.

The author's attention is primarily given to the spread of the New England people; but considerable space is also devoted to the spread of New England institutions. The way in which the three typical institutions of that section, the Congregational church, the school or college, and the town meeting, were carried with these people wherever they migrated is one of the most interesting phases of the study. The town meeting appears to have been more modified in the contact with the new environment than the other institutions, but all proved potent forces in the social life wherever the virile stock of New England was to be found.

The volume is the result of most detailed and painstaking study, based in the main on local histories and biographies—sources which are hardly ideal, but the best available under the circumstances. The Bibliographical Notes discussing this material should prove very serviceable. The numerous and well-executed maps, which really embody so large a portion of the results, are one of the most valuable features of the book.

C. W. W.

The Family and the Nation. A Study in Natural Inheritance and Social Responsibility. By WILLIAM C. D. WHETHAM AND CATHERINE D. WHETHAM. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. Large 8vo, pp. viii+233. \$2.50 net.

This volume is chiefly interesting as another sign of the spreading interest in eugenics. "To the writers," as the preface states, "the train of ideas outlined therein has given unity to a host of previously unconnected observations." Some of these unconnected observations, it would appear, find a place in the body of the book. The authors have skimmed and paraphrased well-known writers on heredity and variation, and have added slight material of their own gathering on the rise and decline of families. The result is dilute and unorganized. Surprisingly little originality is shown for the most part. The chapter on causes of the decline in the birth-rate is the principal exception, and is not without interest, though it can hardly be called important. On the whole the book is too superficial to be of any considerable scientific value.